

**CITY OF BUCKEYE  
COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD**

**March 19, 2014  
MINUTES**

City Hall  
530 E. Monroe Avenue  
Buckeye, AZ 85326  
6:30 pm

**1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call**

Teresa Bible, Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

Members Present – Chair Teresa Bible, Vice Chair Margarito Lara and Board Members Sue Mros, Linda Gross, Garnett Sailor, Alex Villa and Council Liaison Michelle Hess

Staff Present – Community Services Director Cheryl Sedig, Management Assistant Douglas Strong, Conservation & Project Manager Robert Wisener, Recreation Manager Miranda Gomez, Library Manager, Jana White and Community Center Manager, Phil Yabes.

**2. Comments from the Public**

Mr. Steve Rugh was in attendance and was asked by Chairperson Teresa Bible to tell the board a little about himself. Mr. Rugh is interested in the Wildlife Corridor and expressed his wishes of staff and Council to look at Southern Wildlife Corridor leading to the Tres Rios and be part of this overall plan in Buckeye.

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 15, 2014**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Lara and seconded by Board Member Mros to approve the minutes for the January 15, 2014 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. New Business**

**4a. – Presentation by Miranda Gomez of Summer Recreation Programs**

Ms. Gomez began with information related to the “UniverCity” Summer Recreation Programs to be offered at Inca and Buckeye Elementary Schools from 8 am – 2 pm. This program is just \$70 for the entire summer which is very affordable. Field trips will also be offered throughout the summer for both the Summer Recreation program and Summer Camp Program. Online registration is currently being taken with a 10% discount to encourage residents to use the new online system. Staff is working to get the public more aware and educated with online registration.

The Aquatics Programs is outlined in the ‘Eye on Buckeye’ magazine and the flyers will be sent out to all schools prior to schools being out for the year. Recently staff secured an additional free swim day sponsor from SRP which will pay for up to 300 pool patrons and 100 youth for free swim lessons. The swim team is continuing to be popular which has been at full capacity with 225 youth registering by May in past seasons. Staff feels this will continue again this season. The capacity for this program is determined based on the number of swim lanes during swim team practices, so space can be a concern. Ms. Gomez stressed the importance to register early for all aquatic programs.

Youth basketball will be back this summer and registrations are being accepted now through May 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a great indoor program for the youth in the community during the hot summer months.

The Recreation Center will be hosting a summer recreation program for youth ages 3-5 until 2 pm at which time the center is open for drop in recreation until 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. The summer months will be very busy.

Vice Chairman Lara asked if there is a maximum of the number of participants for the summer recreation programs at the elementary schools. Ms. Gomez said the locations are based on staff to participant ratios and although we have several youth registered at these programs many are not in attendance everyday due to summer family vacations and other summer commitments. Fieldtrips are being finalized this week and participants can register for the summer program by day which then allows participants to attend fieldtrips. This option is especially helpful with participants who have family visiting from out of town who would like to go along on fieldtrips or attend the summer program.

Mr. Lara asked what is done with testing the pool to ensure its chemical levels are correct. Ms. Gomez mentioned Maricopa County has strict guidelines to be followed which helps with doing preventative maintenance. Daily parks staff are checking for compliance while lifeguard staff are also checking every hour. In the case of incidents where the pool must be closed it depends on the type of matter within the pool. At times it will be for hours while it can at times be shut down for a couple days until all pool chemical levels are safe for swimmers. Mr. Lara asked how many companies are sponsoring free swim days. Ms. Gomez mentioned three companies at this point with the possibility of gaining a few more. A letter is available for any board members wishing to give out to any companies that may have interest in sponsoring. The free pool day's information is posted both in the magazine and will be handed out on flyers. These companies sponsor up to \$750 per each free swim day. Councilmember Hess would like a letter to give out along with a list of companies that have already received a letter to avoid redundancy. Ms. Gomez said she would be emailing them the letter and list of companies already contacted.

Mr. Lara asked for a brief summary for the Spring Celebration. Mr. Yabes shared the planned activities to include photos with the bunny, egg hunts, arts and crafts along with food and fun. All are invited to come out and participate. Volunteers are also welcomed and appreciated. Councilmember Hess asked who the Bunnies are this year. Mr. Bunny is Josh Swartz from the Verrado Assembly and Ms. Bunny is Jocelyn Hixon, a former city employee who has done it for the past several years.

#### **4b. - Presentation by Robert Wisener, Conservation & Project Manager on Wildlife Corridor Implementation Study**

Over the last several months the city and Arizona Game and Fish have been meeting to discuss the type of wildlife corridors and identify ways to work with future developments. GIS based tools have been used for habitat modeling and identifying suggested corridors. Findings have included numerous types of wildlife migrating to and from the White Tank Mountains.

Connectivity is the key and identifying the travel routes of wildlife. These routes were traced which provides the data to create suggested corridors. Arizona Game and Fish first used the mule deer as the specie to determine the possible locations of migration. They also tracked mountain lions and its travel to see if there were any differences; it showed they had a greater range and distance of migrating. In addition to these two species, they also looked and 11 other wildlife to include the desert tortoise, rattlesnakes, gila monster and javelina. With this information they

were able to overlay the migrating patterns and information from each species to come up with an all-inclusive corridor. The information being collected will be shared with future developments and may need to be part of amendments for existing agreements to compensate for the wildlife. The state is requiring developments to ensure wildlife and conservation efforts are being made during planning and development. For this reason, the plan is to hire an outside consultant and take all the information collected along with the city master plan, community agreements and neighboring cities developmental plans to compile and recommend the proper steps to ensure these corridors are created and developments are in future and amended agreements. Negotiations may need to be made to ensure developments are in agreement with possible changes. Stakeholders included in this initial implementation study will include private property owners, the Arizona State Land Department, Maricopa County and other jurisdictions. Staff will be working to select the best qualified consultant to conduct all the analysis and make the best recommendations to the city.

Mr. Villa asked if Luke Airbase is taken into consideration with this study. Mr. Wisener mentioned that the flight paths do not have a direct impact to the locations of study. Mr. Lara asked are there any current species that are listed as endangered. Mr. Wisener mentioned at this time none are listed but if there were any wildlife identified as endangered other measures would need to be taken. Ms. Bible said she has noticed a decrease of spotting mule deer in the Sundance Area. Ms. Sedig mentioned this may also be in part to the illegal shooting off of Watson Rd. which has been addressed recently resulting in more wildlife returning to these areas.

#### **4c. - Presentation of Community Services Fee Schedule by Douglas Strong, Management Assistant**

Mr. Strong outlined the new and revised fees that were provided in a handout to all board members. Only a handful of changes and additions were explained with the majority of fees not changing. This includes a new overnight camping fee for the future Skyline Park. Mr. Sailor asked for an example of the overnight camping fees at Skyline Park. Mr. Wisener shared the example of the nearby Maricopa County White Tanks Mountain Park and the types of fees related to their park. Mr. Sailor mentioned Wal-Mart has overnight stays at no cost. It was pointed out that although Wal-Mart is free it's more about the overall experience and environment of being at a park camping versus a parking lot in the city. Ms. Mros asked if the range for overnight camping was in place for the option of dry camping with a tent versus RVs. Mr. Wisener explained this was correct and it was a range to meet the different types of overnight camping. Mr. Rugh from the general public asked staff to make sure the pricing structure is addressed within the rental policy which Mr. Strong mentioned is already part of that rental policy and the fees approved tonight will then be modified in the policies to match the recommended schedule of fees.

A motion was made by Board member Mros and seconded by Board member Gross for the approval of the schedule of fees. It passed unanimously.

#### **5. Staff Report**

Ms. Sedig mentioned there have been changes in our department and introduced Jana White, recently hired Library Manager. Ms. White shared an update on the new library at the Sundance Crossing location. There will be a sneak peek provided by Core Construction and Perlman Architects along with library staff. This will provide the opportunity for the public to view the inside of the building with visual and virtual tours. Ms. White expressed her excitement and passion for the love of the library and future services as she continues to work with staff. Board member Gross asked if the library will be an all-inclusive servicing library and not just for youth.

Ms. White shared there are currently resources for all ages at the current library and future library.

Ms. Sedig shared the resignation of Jan Holland-Malcom former Community Engagement Manager. Because of her resignation, the spring celebration is being handled by Phil Yabes for this coming month. The Community Engagement Manager position has been offered to Myra Curtis, currently she is the Management Assistant with the City's Public Works Department and she will begin with the Community Services Department on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Yabes announced the total of \$1,293 that was raised due the effort of the community bingo program offered in Goodyear. All proceeds go back directly to the Senior Program. Attendance and support was appreciated. Staff will be doing this again in the future. The senior volunteer breakfast will be taking place April 1<sup>st</sup> along with the Spring Senior Bizarre on April 16<sup>th</sup>. As part of the Bizarre guests will be able to throw a pie in the face of Mr. Yabes as a fundraiser.

Mr. Wisener reported that the plans for Skyline are progressing towards 90% completion and the Watson Road leading to the park is finalizing with acquisition of right of way. The Gila River Restoration project will be going to council in April with the selection of the consultant.

Ms. Gomez reported that the 'Let's Move' Campaign is progressing with assistance from Councilwoman Hess. This month the department received honors with a gold and two bronze medals towards the goal of achieving five gold medals. As part of this program the City is working on a marathon/fun run, fitness in the park program and farmers market. The department will be submitting its application for the Playful City USA recognition program. This would be the third year if selected. The department is still selling Melodrama tickets, if interested tickets can be purchased at the Recreation Center or online. The Community Yard Sale will be taking place on Saturday, March 22 with a movie in the Park the night prior with the showing of 'Frozen' at Tartesso Community Park.

Councilmember Hess inquired about the board taking action on those advisory board members who may not be as engaged and if the board would like to get this addressed board members can contact her. Councilmember Hess complimented the department and all its efforts for doing a job well done.

Ms. Sedig agreed with Councilmember Hess and shared her view that she has a very good team. Ms. Sedig shared the upcoming item that will be going to city council for the lease of the Rodeo Arena which the Chamber of Commerce currently holds. The department feels it is doable and an opportunity that has been brought to the department's attention. Council will make the decision on whether to approve this lease. The Spring Demolition Derby is still set for May 10<sup>th</sup> and staff will be busy organizing for this event should the lease agreement being approved. Ms. Mros asked what type of events would be offered at the arena. Ms. Sedig mentioned the Demolition Derby is offered twice a year which will continue along with a couple suggested new events such as a western re-enactment show or a Mexican rodeo more known as a 'Charreada'. Councilmember Hess asked if alcohol would be served at these types of events. Ms. Sedig mentioned the Rotary Club has done this in the past and wishes to continue with operating the alcohol related items at his location.

## **6. Comments from the Chair and Board Members**

Board member Mros would be happy to see the Rodeo arena continue in offering community wide events.

Board member Villa invited all to come to the Market on the Move program at All Faith Community Services on Saturday where you can purchase fresh produce at a reasonable price. Board member Villa suggested to the City to look at the possibility of adding a BMX type use at the rodeo arena facility, he spoke with a resident who has a desire for a bike park to be done in Buckeye. Ms. Sedig has had conversations with private operators for this type of use; however, both types of uses will not be able to coexist and it will ultimately be the City Council's decision on whether to approve this type of activity or not once the lease is approved at the April 1<sup>st</sup> council meeting.

Vice Chairman Lara complimented Ms. Gomez for her report on the upcoming summer programs.

Chairperson Bible expressed her concern and agreed to have those board members not actively engaged to reconsider if they should remain on as a board member. She also complimented staff on all their efforts and working so hard with smiles on their faces. She offered to assist as a volunteer wherever she and her husband are available.

Vice Chair Lara suggested this be discussed and recommended to Council for removal of certain advisory board members at the next advisory board meeting.

Board member Sailor agreed with Chairperson Bible and feels this should be on the next meeting agenda so the board can operate more efficient and be more active.

**7. Next Meeting Suggested Agenda Items – May 21, 2014**

Chairperson Bible suggested an agenda item for discussion and recommendation to City Council for the removal of inactive board members and replace them with new active members.

**8. Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. by Vice Chairman Lara and seconded by Board member Mros. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Teresa Bible, Chair**

**ATTEST:**

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**Douglas C. Strong, Management Assistant**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Community Services Advisory Board meeting held by the Advisory Board on March 19, 2014. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

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**Douglas C. Strong, Management Assistant**

